

In the Specification:

Page 8, line 5 replace the word "remote" with the phrase "remote/regional".

In the Drawings:

Attached in Exhibit 1 is a corrected drawing of Figure 1 whereby the word "regional" is inserted after the word "remote".

REMARKS

This Proposed Amendment is submitted prior to the receipt of any Office Action for this patent application. This document is submitted as a proposed amendment in response to an in-person interview with the Examiner on April 21, 2004.

Claims 15-49 and new claims 50-63 are pending. Independent Claims 1, 28, 41 and 43 includes the element for contacting regional warehouses and local vendors as distinguished from the cited prior art. Neither the Business Wire 15 September 1997 publication, Wakiyama et al. U.S. patent number 5,806,069, nor Brown et al. U.S patent number 5,923,552 disclose or teach the use of regional and local warehouses and local vendors for customer/contractor ordering of material and supplies. The present invention specification discloses that information for materials and supplies by stating it "...can be sent to **regional** vendor warehouses specializing in processing this advanced and efficient ordering method for construction material" column 7, lines 55-59. It is thus clear here, as well as implied though out the present application's specification, that the selected vendor or merchant might be either a specific local store or a vendor, merchant or warehouse belonging to or associated with a large chain. Thus, one embodiment of the invention makes it possible for the local outlet belonging to or associated with the large chain to feature on-line ordering of constructions materials and supplies that are specific to the region in which the outlet is located.

Since claims 2-27, 29-40, 42, and 44-49 are dependent upon independent claims 1, 28, 41 and 43, claims 2-27, 29-40, 42, and 44-49 are patentably distinct over the prior art reference as is independent claims 1, 28, 41 and 43 are patentably distinct.

Support for new claims 50-63 is found in the 09/545,991 specification. Independent Claims 41, 43, 50, 54, 58 and 61 include the elements for being able to provide a publicly accessible (by either a contractor or an individual customer) computer program for ordering construction materials and supplies from a regional vendor as distinguish from the cited prior art. Neither the Business Wire 15 September 1997 publication, Wakiyama et al. U.S. patent number 5,806,069, nor Brown et al. U.S patent number 5,923,552 disclose or teach the use of a publicly accessible customer/contractor computer system for the ordering of construction material and supplies. The '991 specification discloses a "public telephone system associated with a public internet network" (See Figure 1). The '991 specification also discloses that "... personal computer 12 is also shown connected to an (public accessible) Internet network 34 ..." (column 4, lines 30-34). Furthermore, the '991 discloses; "Internet network 34 and public telephone system are depicted in FIG. 1 as an amorphous shape to suggest that the details of connection with the customer and the access made by the customer are continually evolving. By making a connection to the (publicly accessible) Internet network, the customer has the ability to access sites throughout the world at which are stored on-line catalogs are accessed by the customer." (column 4, lines 33 -- 49). It is clear that the selected local store, vendor, merchant or associated warehouse might be accessed though publicly available networks to order materials and supplies from to a large or regional national chain. Thus, the invention makes it possible for the local outlet belonging to the large chain to feature publicly available on-line ordering of construction materials and supplies that are specific to the region in which the outlet is located.

Dependent claims 51-53, 53-57, 59-60, and 62-63, which depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claims 50, 54, 58 and 61, incorporate all the limitations of claims 50, 54, 58 and 61 and are patentably distinct over the prior art references as is independent claims 50, 54, 58 and 61 are patentably distinct. In addition, dependent claims 42, and 44-49, which depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claims 41 and 43, incorporate all the limitations of

claims 41 and 43 and are patentably distinct over the prior art references as is independent claims 41 and 43 are patentably distinct. .

No new matter is added.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 15-63 are allowable and that the application should be passed to issue. If any matters can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 502274.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Klicpera". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Klicpera" being clearly legible, and "E." as a middle initial.

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